Re-allocation of seats in the Representative Assembly.

READ—

Government Order No. Rl. 5443-56—R. A. 11-31-1, dated 22nd June 1932, appointing a Committee for considering the question of the re-distribution of seats in the Representative Assembly and other allied questions.

2. Letter No. Rl. 1195—R. A., dated 20th September 1932, from the Secretary, Representative Assembly, forwarding the Report (printed as Appendix) of the Committee appointed in the order read above.

ORDER THEREON NO. RL. 2429-88—R. A. 13-32-2, DATED CAMP MYSORE, 9TH OCTOBER 1932.

The recommendations of the Committee are briefly as follows :—

I. DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

1. *Rural Constituencies.*—(*a*) The number of representatives from a Taluk or Sub-Taluk should generally be in proportion to its population and the following scale may be adopted :—

Taluks having a population of over one lakh to have each ... 3 Members.
Taluks or Sub-Taluks having a population between 50,000 and one lakh to have each .. .. .. 2 Members.
Taluks or Sub-Taluks having a population below 50,000 to have each .. 1 Member.

(*b*) The Malnad Taluks should be given some weightage so that the Taluks of Sagar, Koppa, Mudgere and Nagar, which would return only one member on the above basis, may get one more each ; and Molakalmuru also may be given two members on account of its extreme remoteness.

2. *Urban Constituencies.*—The representation for the urban constituencies should be continued as at present. The Town Municipalities of Kunigal, Birur and Sagar which have been constituted as such subsequent to the last allocation should be given one seat each. Mandya, Gundlupet and Bhadravati, which are not yet constituted as town municipalities, though they have each a population exceeding 5,000 according to the last Census may be given, the privilege to return a member if and when they are so constituted.

3. *Special Interests.*—(*a*) The number of seats allotted to the University may be reduced from 2 to 1 and the number allotted to Trade and Commerce from 3 to 2 and the privilege of returning one member each, enjoyed by the Legal, European Planting, Indian Planting, Gold Mining and Inamdars' Interests may be continued.

(*b*) The representation granted by way of nomination by Government for Agriculture may be reduced from 2 to 1, for Co-operation from 3 to 2 and for Sericulture from 2 to 1 ; Spinning and Weaving and Handloom Weaving may be combined as the Textile Industry and represented by one member instead of 2 members as at present. Mining Labour and Factory Labour may continue to have the seats enjoyed heretofore and the seats for Women's Interest may be increased from 2 to 4.

4. *Minorities.*—(*a*) The present system of guaranteeing seats to the principal minority communities, *viz.*, the Mussalmans, the Indian Christians and the Depressed Classes should be continued. There is no need to guarantee seats for any of the other minority communities.

One of the members nominated to represent the Women's Interest may be selected from the Mahomedan community, if a suitable representative is available.

(*b*) The number of seats guaranteed to Mussalmans may be increased from 15 to 18.

(*c*) The number of seats guaranteed to Indian Christians, *viz.*, five may be continued.

(*d*) The number of seats guaranteed to the Depressed Classes may remain at six as at present, but the Government may increase the representation to ten, if suitable persons are available.

(*e*) The number of seats for minority representation should be limited as far as possible to the statutory minimum, *viz.*, 35, and any number remaining over, after giving the guaranteed representation as above, may be utilised for nominating representatives of the major sub-castes of the Hindus.

II. SYSTEM OF ELECTION.

(1) The existing system of elections, *i.e.*, "majority system" should be changed in multi-membered constituencies so as to secure a result which will truly reflect the voting strength of the several parties in the constituency; and the system of proportional representation by the single transferable vote adopted in select multi-membered constituencies.

(2) The system of proportional representation may be introduced for the election of eight members from the Representative Assembly to the Legislative Council and for elections to the Representative Assembly from the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore, the introduction of the system in the rural constituencies being deferred till the percentage of literacy improves.

(3) This system may also be adopted for elections to the panels of the various standing committees from the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council; to the Senate from the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council (under the new University Amending Regulation) and to such other committees or bodies for which three or four members are to be returned at a single election.

Government are pleased to approve of the above recommendations of the Committee and direct that they be given effect to in the ensuing elections. The distribution of seats for the rural and urban constituencies and the special interests will be as in Schedules A, B and C respectively, appended to the report of the Committee.

N. MADHAVA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.